

# Report of the auditor-general to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature and council on the Molemole Local Municipality

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Molemole Local Municipality set out on pages ... to ..., which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, and the statement of financial, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the municipality as at 30 June 2017, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act, 2016 (Act No. 3 of 2016).

### Basis for opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants* (IESBA code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA code.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

### Emphasis of matters

6. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

### Restatement of corresponding figures

7. As disclosed in notes 41 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2016 have been restated as a result of an error discovered in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2017.

### **Impairments – trade debtors**

8. As disclosed in note 31 to the financial statements, material losses to the amount of R 8 024 716 were incurred as a result of impairment provisions for doubtful debts.

### **Material losses– Electricity**

9. As disclosed in note 48 to the financial statements, material electricity losses to the amount of R 373 249 (2015-2016: R 1 685 386) was incurred which represents 17% (2015-2016: 41%) of total bulk electricity purchased. Technical losses amounted to R 373 249.00 (2015-2016: R 1 685 386) and were due to in-house electricity meters which increased risk of electricity tempering.

### **Other matters**

10. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

### **Unaudited supplementary schedules**

11. The supplementary information set out on pages x to x does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, I do not express a conclusion thereon.
- 

### **Unaudited disclosure notes**

12. In terms of section 125(2)(e) of the MFMA the municipality is required to disclose particulars of non-compliance with the MFMA in the financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of the financial statements and accordingly I do not express an opinion thereon.

### **Responsibilities of the accounting officer for the financial statements**

13. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with SA Standards of GRAP and the requirement of the MFMA and DORA and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
14. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting is responsible for assessing the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the accounting officer either intends to liquidate the municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

15. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can

arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

16. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to the auditor's report.

## **Report on the audit of the annual performance report**

### **Introduction and scope**

17. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
18. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the municipality. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators/measures included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.
19. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2017:

<b>Development priorities</b>	<b>Pages in the annual performance report</b>
KPA 1: Spatial rationale	x – x
KPA 2: Basic service delivery and infrastructure planning	x – x

20. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.
21. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the following development priorities:
- KPA 1: Spatial rationale.
  - KPA 2: Basic service delivery and infrastructure planning.

## **Other matters**

22. I draw attention to the matters below.

### **Achievement of planned targets**

23. Refer to the annual performance report on page(s) x to x; x to x] for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and explanations provided for the under / overachievement of a number of targets.

### **Adjustment of material misstatements**

24. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information of Spatial rationale and Basic services and infrastructure planning. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not raise any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

## **Report on audit of compliance with legislation**

### **Introduction and scope**

25. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.

26. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

### **Strategic planning and performance management**

27. The Infrastructure Development Plan did not include the key performance indicators and targets as required by sections 26(i) of the Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No.32 of 2000) (MSA) and Municipal planning and performance management regulation 2(1)(c).

28. The Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan for the year under review did not include monthly revenue projections by source of collection and the monthly operational and capital expenditure by vote as required by section 1 of the MFMA.

### **Annual financial statements, performance and annual reports**

29. The financial statements submitted for audit were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122 of the MFMA.

30. Material misstatements of revenue and disclosure items identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected and the supporting records were provided subsequently resulted in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

## **Procurement and contract management**

31. Awards were made to providers who are in service of other state institutions, in contravention of section 112(j) of the MFMA and Supply Chain Management Regulation 44.

## **Budget management**

32. Reasonable steps were not taken to prevent unauthorised expenditure amounting to R 10 227 096 as disclosed in note 43 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1) (d) of the MFMA.

## **Expenditure management**

33. Effective steps were not taken to prevent irregular expenditure amounting to R 512 734 as disclosed in note 45 to the annual financial statements, as required by section 62(1) (d) of the MFMA.

## **Other information**

34. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report which includes the audit committee's report. ~~The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report thereon and those selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported on in the auditor's report.~~
35. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
36. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected development priorities presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
37. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate, however, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

## **Internal control deficiencies**

38. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance thereon. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for opinion, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.

## Leadership

39. The accounting officer reviewed the annual financial statements and the annual performance plan with the assistance of the audit committee prior to submission for audit, but a number of material misstatements were still identified. This was mainly due to staff not fully understanding the requirements of the financial reporting framework.

## Financial and performance management

40. Daily and monthly internal controls measures in place are inadequate to identify prevent and correct errors and misstatements in the financial statements to ensure compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

*Auditor-General.*

Polokwane

30 November 2017



AUDITOR - GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA

*Auditing to build public confidence*

## **Annexure – Auditor-general’s responsibility for the audit**

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected development priorities and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

### **Financial statements**

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in the auditor’s report, I also:
  - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
  - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality’s internal control.
  - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by accounting officer.
  - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Molemole Local Municipality ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of the auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause a municipality to cease to continue as a going concern.
  - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

### **Communication with those charged with governance**

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and here applicable, related safeguards.